

ABANDONED OR INACTIVE URANIUM
MINES IN NEW MEXICO

A report of investigation carried out
between August 1979 and May 1980 under
contract with the New Mexico Energy and
Minerals Department.

by

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New Mexico Bureau of Mines and
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Open-File Report 148

INTRODUCTION

During the course of this investigation approximately 200 uranium mine sites were visited. Although these sites are distributed throughout 20 counties the majority are in McKinley, San Juan, and Valencia Counties, along the western and southern margin of the San Juan Basin. Other counties with an appreciable number of sites are Grant, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Sierra, and Socorro.

Field work commenced in August, 1979 and extended although not continuously, into May, 1980. Information obtained during the on-site visits included location, type and size of mine, condition of mine, host formation, dimensions of remaining structures, proximity to residences or villages, water quality data, and radiation levels, although a gamma ray scintillometer was not obtained for the project until October 20, 1979. An effort was made to contact landowners whenever and wherever possible, however, no systematic attempt was made to determine land and mineral ownership during this phase of the investigation.

Mine operation data has been included where available. This consists of information on ore grades, production history mineralogy, and mine operator. Old publications of the U.S. AEC and the State Mine Inspectors office were helpful in this area.

The mine reports are arranged alphabetically by county with each county having its own index. A NM- or AZ-mine identification number is given with each mine name in the index. It is an AML numbering system devised by Don Baker, Jr. The first part of this

identification number is based on a U.S. Soil Conservation Service numbering system of 15' quadrangles beginning with 1 in the northwest corner of the state to 24 in the northeast corner, then returning to the western border to start a new tier. The second part refers to a 7½' quad within the 15' quad; these are numbered counterclockwise from 1 in the NE quadrant to 4 in the SE. The last part of the number refers to a particular mine within the 7½' quad. An AZ- prefix indicates the 15' quadrangle is an Arizona quad that overlaps the New Mexico state boundary.

Acknowledgments - The writer wishes to thank the following people for their valuable assistance in the field: Lars (Skip) Skotte, Richard Chamberlin, JoAnne Osburn, Mary Ann Anderson, and Cheryl Kyllonen.

A special thanks is extended to Mr. William Chenoweth of the U.S. Department of Energy, both for his time in the field as well as the claim maps and A.E.C. mine production records he provided. Mr. John Blagbrough provided helpful information about the Chuska district. The editorial assistance of Wyatt Brewster and Lars (Skip) Skotte is gratefully acknowledged.

The help and cooperation of the Navajo Tribe Office in Window Rock, Arizona permitted a statewide investigation to be completed; a note of thanks goes to Mr. R. Zaman and Mr. William Armstrong of that office.

SAN JUAN COUNTY

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Quad: Pastora Peak 15'

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King #6 (Jimmy King #6)

2. AZ-20-0-2 Page 7

Barton & Begay (Beclabito lease)

3. AZ-20-0-3 Page 12

Rocky Flats #1

4. AZ-20-0-4 Page 15

Canyon #1

5. AZ-20-0-5 Page ~~20~~ 21

John John #1

6. AZ-20-0-6 Page ~~23~~ 24

Jimmy King #2

7. AZ-20-0-7 Page ~~27~~ 28

Rocky Flats #2

8. AZ-20-0-8 Page ~~31~~ 32

Cottonwood Butte Mine (VCA Plot 8)

9. AZ-20-0-9 Page ~~37~~ 38

Lone Star (on VCA Plot #9)

PREFACE TO EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT REPORTS

The East Carrizo District lies along or within several miles of the Arizona border in townships 29 and 30 N., and ranges 20 and 21 west.

The area is covered on the Pastora Peak and Redrock Valley 15' topographic quadrangles, but is largely unsurveyed. A land net was projected in solely to determine if our locations agreed with those given in other publications such as Hilpert, L., (1969), and does not appear on the East Carrizo District claim maps (after AEC, 1953, Claim Maps, East Carrizo District) that accompany each report.

These claim maps were provided for our use on this project by Mr. William Chenoweth of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office, Grand Junction, Colorado. They show access roads, drainage lines, and the claims in the area as of 1953. The only scale they carry is the mile post markers along the New Mexico/Arizona state line.

Orin J. Anderson

*New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
Socorro, New Mexico
June, 1980*

Date Visited 10/23/79

Mine name(s) King #6 (Jimmy King #6) County San Juan Co.

Section (Unsurveyed) Twنش. 30 N R. 21 W

Quadrangle sheet Pastora Peak 15'

Mining district East Carrizo (on Navajo Reservation)

Elevation 5900'

Nearest city and/or dwelling Beclabito Trading Post, 2 mi.

The Jimmy King #6 workings consist of 2 small adits on the north side of a small east-west drainage that lies near the projected Sec. 14/23 line; area is unsurveyed (see photo a). The southern adit is about 7' high, 12' long, and 4' wide inside but flared at face to make it appear much wider. It is driven in a channel sandstone unit, near the base, with the floor in a 6" to 9" thick mudstone lens. Large blocks of sandstone, some of which may have caved from roof, lie at the entrance, but the workings do not appear to be particularly dangerous; (see photos b & c). Maximum scintillometer reading in portal areas = 600 cps.

The northern adit is about 6' high, 30' long, and ranges from 4'-8' in width. It is also driven in a channel sandstone, but has a reddish brown mudstone/siltstone lens, 18' thick, at mid level (see photo d). Mineralization is concentrated in the mudstone layer which gave scintillometer readings as high as 3200 cps. when instrument held within 1 foot of the face.

Access to the mine is from the east via a short road leading off the Oak Springs road. The mine road is now in a badly deteriorated condition and walking in the approximately 1/3 mi. distance from the Oak Springs road is the recommended way. The area is actively grazed by Navajo goat & sheep herds. Host rock for the uranium deposits is the Salt Wash sandstone member of the Morrison fm. The uranium occurs in association with vanadium; u:v ratio in the vicinity is 1:5, but mine run ore averaged a slightly higher ratio. Mine was operated from 1955 to 1957 by the Troy Rose Mining Co. A total of 54 tons of ore was produced containing 114 lbs. of U_3O_8 for an average grade of .11%. V_2O_5 content was 773 lbs. or .72%. The mine dumps are correspondingly small, as seen in photo e where the arrows point to each adit.

See attached claim index map.

References: (1) Chenoweth, W. L., 1980, Historical Review of Uranium-Vanadium in The Eastern Carrizo Mountains, San Juan County, New Mexico, U.S. DOE, TM-210.

(2) Hilpert, L., 1969, Uranium Resources of Northwest New Mexico; USGS pp. 603, p. 52

(3) East Carrizo District Claim Index Map, 1953.

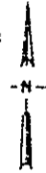
34 35 T 31 N
3 2 T 30 N
R 21 W

VABM

BECLABITO TRDG POST

ARIZ.
N.M.

EAST CARRIZO DISTRICT CLAIM INDEX MAP



JJ KING No 6 MP 292
TROY ROSE

BARTON & BEGAY

ROCKY FLATS #1

CANYON #1

JOHN JOHN No 1 MP-334

JIMMY KING # 2

C BEKIS No 1 MP-41
TROY ROSE

ROCKY FLATS #2

H BARTON
&
T LEE
MP 30

Canyon

VCA PLOT 8
5705

VCA PLOT 9812
5705 (LONESTAR)

R 21 W
R 20 W

T 30 N
T 29 N

W SELLS
MP-431

E LEUPPE MP-430

Upper & Lower Canyon Claims
CATO SELLS MP-56

Upper Can-
yon Claims
PETTIGREW
MP-337
(Leroy
MP-532)

Lower Can-
yon Claim

35-2



Photo (a) Looking west at Jimmy King #6 workings, south adit at left arrow, north adit at right.

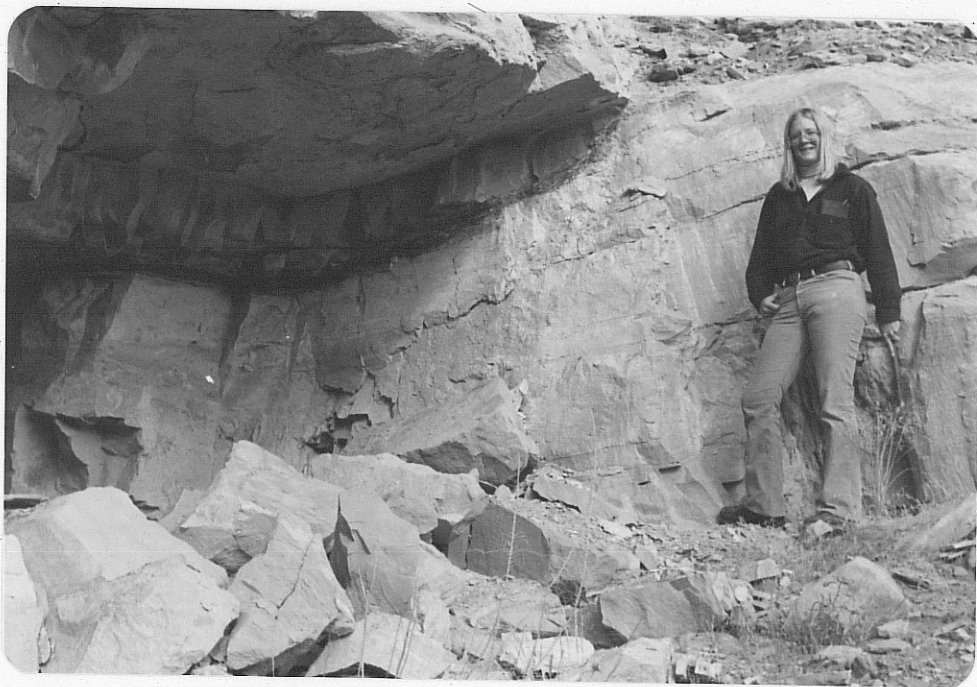


Photo (b) Looking W NW into southern adit.

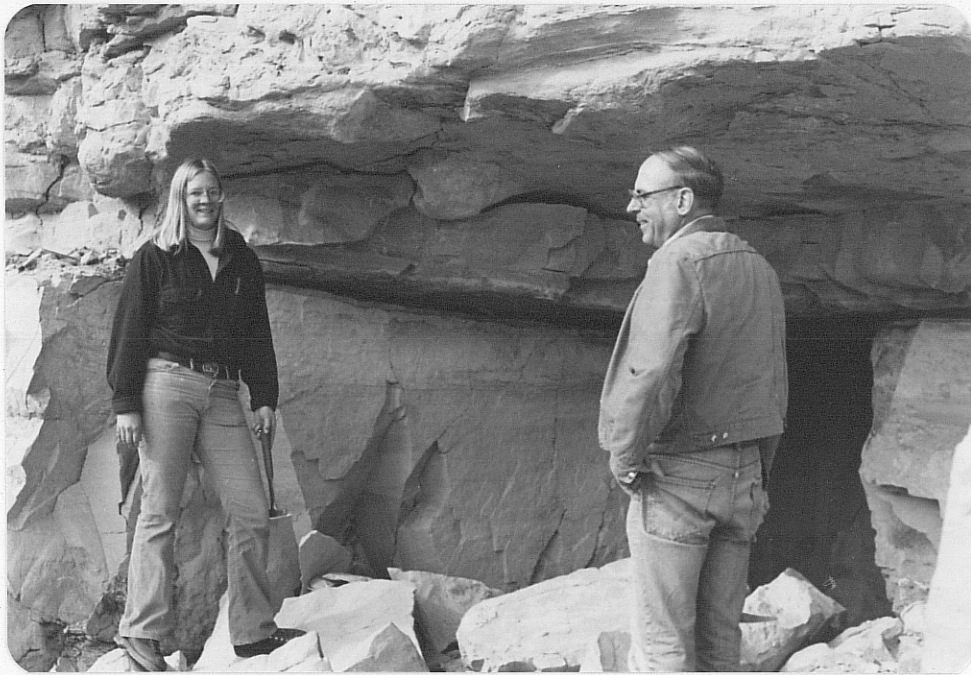


Photo (c) Looking at south wall of southern adit.

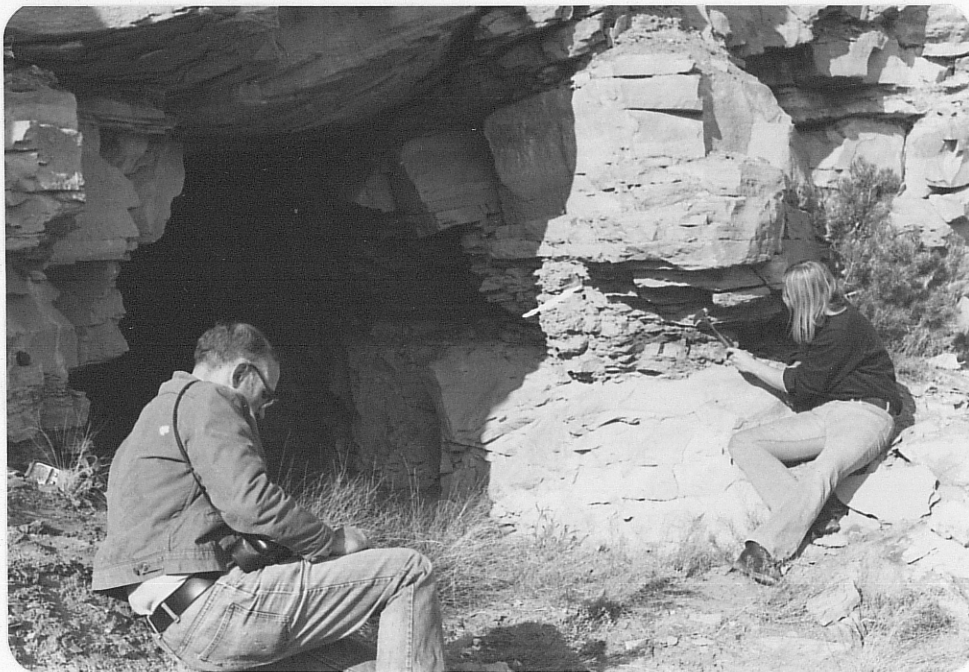


Photo (d) Looking into northern adit showing mudstone lens on north wall.

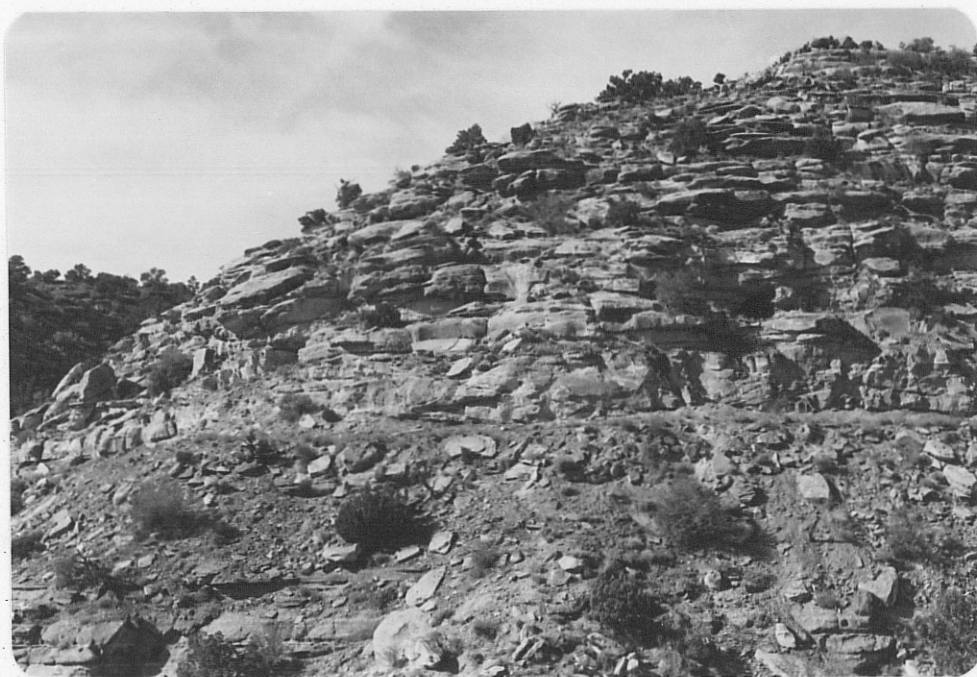


Photo. (e) Looking W at both adits; note small size of mine dumps.